

MARK 3:13-19 SENT WITH A MESSAGE

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve—designating them apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Other great teachers accepted disciples – those who wished to be in their presence and learn from them. In some cases, these disciples would become a school that would foster the original teachings of the master, or at least a body of instruction or philosophy based on those teachings. That is not what Jesus did. Jesus called those he wanted, they came, and he appointed them apostles...those who are sent out with a message...before they knew much of anything about his message.

In Genesis 12, God made a promise to Abram, and embedded in that promise was a missionary mandate in that they would be blessed to be a blessing to the world (vv. 2-3). Like the 12 tribes of Israel, Jesus appointed the 12 and designated them as apostles. The call of Israel, the Incarnation of the Son of God, and the appointment of the Apostles all demonstrate that our God is a missionary God – he goes to those who do not know him to reveal himself to them. Today he does that through the Church. As the Apostles were sent out to announce (preach) and demonstrate (drive out demons) his purpose and direction to the world, we as the Church, are called to do likewise. We are to speak the Good News with our mouths (announce) and we are to confirm the transforming reality of that news with our lives (demonstrate). To know God is a blessing that must be shared with all those who do not know him.

Jesus, you blessed humankind by including us in the work of the Father. In doing so you not only blessed us, but demonstrated to us that it is God's will to be in relationship with his people. Help me to take the time to relate to others in such a way that I may effectively share your message with them through my words and deeds. Amen.